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Cont'd

19. (Amended) An element as set forth in claim 18, wherein said hydrophilic group is polyalkylene oxide.

A2

21. (Amended) An element as set forth in claim 16, wherein a substance reactive on said functional group is introduced into said part of said surface by causing a reaction of said functional group with said substance reactive on said functional group.

#### REMARKS

The claims are 1-71. Claims 1-15 and 23-71 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected inventions. The claims at issue are 16-22, with claim 16 being the sole independent claim. Claim 16 has been amended to better define the present invention and to improve its form. Support for this amendment may be found, inter alia, in the original specification at page 26, line 25, to page 30, line 10, and page 35, line 25, to page 42, line 17. Claims 17, 18 and 21 have been amended to improve their form. Claim 19 has been amended to correct its dependency. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

The title, the specification and the abstract are objected to for formal reasons. To address these objections and to clarify the disclosure, Applicants submit herewith a substitute specification. A marked-up copy of the original specification is also enclosed. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, the above objections should be withdrawn.

Claims 16-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite.

Applicants have amended the claims to address the Examiner's concerns.

With respect to the term "element", it is respectfully submitted that this term is clearly defined, for instance, in the original specification at page 20, lines 15-19, and page 32, line 25, to page 33, line 1. With respect to the orientation mentioned in claim 16, Applicants submit that the orientation is explained, for instance, in Figs. 10A-10D and in Example 2.

Accordingly, the indefiniteness rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 16-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,853,601 (Taskier). Claims 16-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,952,077 (Booth).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The presently claimed invention is directed to an element at least a part of the surface of which is provided with a polymer compound. This polymer compound is obtained by bonding finely fractionalized polymers with each other after these finely fractionalized polymers are formed using a catalyst for polymer cleavage. Since it is formed in this manner, the polymer compound of the present invention is highly adhesive to the surface, resulting in a formation of a stable treated surface.

Taskier is directed to a hydrophilic microporous film. Booth is directed to surfactant compositions. However, neither of these references discloses or suggests that a surface of an element can be treated and reformed using a polymer compound obtained by bonding finely fractionalized polymers with each other after making these fractionalized polymers using a polymer cleavage catalyst. As discussed above, making the polymer compound in this manner improves the adhesion of the polymer compound to the surface

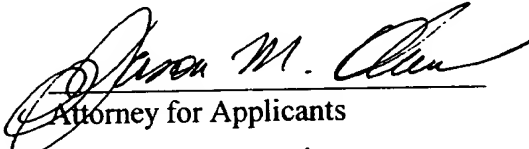
subjected to the treatment and leads to a more stable treated surface than conventional polymers.

Taskier and Booth merely teach applying a hydrophilic polyalkylsiloxane to an article. This polyalkylsiloxane is not made from bonded finely fractionalized polymers. Accordingly, the polyalkylsiloxane in these references is clearly different from a polymer compound of the presently claimed invention in its properties as a surface treating agent. Thus, it is clear that Taskier and Booth, whether considered separately or in combination, cannot affect the patentability of the presently claimed invention.

Wherefore, it is respectfully requested that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and that the present case be passed to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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## APPENDIX

Application No. 09/725,032  
Attorney Docket No. 03500.014959

### IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 16-19 and 21 have been amended as follows:

16. (Amended) An element having a [partial] surface [composing] at least a part of which is [the surface and] provided with a polymer compound,

wherein said polymer compound is a material that [which] is: A BAND

(a) either soluble in a solvent or has [having] a main skeletal structure different from the material [at least] composing at least a portion of said [a] part of said [partial] surface; [and]

(b) comprised of [which comprises] a first part having a functional group

and a second part having the interfacial energy different from that of said functional group and approximately equal to the surface energy of said part of said [partial] surface, and said

second part is oriented toward said part of said [partial] surface and said first part is oriented in the direction different from that of said part of said [partial] surface; and

(c) obtained by bonding finely fractionalized polymers with each other after

said polymers are finely fractionalized by a catalyst for polymer cleavage.

17. (Amended) An element as set forth in claim 16, wherein said

element has a circular part at least partially composed of a curved plane, which is coated [at least in a part and is provided with said polymer compound in at least a part in said circular

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(a) solvent  
soluble  
diff skeletal  
planar  
(b) first part  
oriented toward  
second part is oriented  
oriented in the direction  
of said part of said  
surface; and  
(c) obtained by bonding  
finely fractionalized  
polymers with each other  
after  
said polymers are finely  
fractionalized by a catalyst  
for polymer cleavage.  
is oriented  
not  
(c) made for  
pieces of polymers.

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part as to coat the part] with said polymer compound.

18. (Amended) An element as set forth in claim 16, wherein said part of said [partial] surface of said element is composed of an olefinic resin and said polymer compound is a polyalkylsiloxane having a hydrophilic group.

19. (Amended) An element as set forth in claim 18 [17], wherein said hydrophilic group is polyalkylene oxide.

21. (Amended) An element as set forth in claim 16, wherein a substance reactive on said functional group is introduced into said part of said [partial] surface by causing a reaction of said functional group with said substance reactive on said functional group.